

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

RAFAEL MARTINEZ-RAMOS,

Plaintiff,

-v-

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

24 Civ. 7951 (PAE)

ORDER DIRECTING PAYMENT OF FEE
OR IFP APPLICATION AND PRISONER
AUTHORIZATION

PAUL A. ENGELMAYER, United States District Judge:

Plaintiff, who is currently incarcerated at Federal Correctional Institution, Allenwood (“FCI”) and proceeding *pro se*, brings this motion for the return of property pursuant to Rule 41(g) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Plaintiff’s criminal proceedings have terminated, *Martinez-Ramos v. United States*, No. 22 Cr. 302 (PAE) (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 31, 2023), and this motion was therefore opened as a new civil action. *See, e.g., Diaz v. United States*, 517 F.3d 608, 610 (2d Cir. 2008) (“A Rule 41(g) motion that is brought after the criminal proceeding is over is treated as a civil equitable action.”). To proceed with a civil action, a prisoner must either pay \$405.00 in fees—a \$350.00 filing fee plus a \$55.00 administrative fee—or, to request authorization to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP), that is, without prepayment of fees, submit a signed IFP application and a prisoner authorization. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914, 1915.

If the Court grants a prisoner’s IFP application, the Prison Litigation Reform Act requires the Court to collect the \$350.00 filing fee in installments deducted from the prisoner’s account. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). A prisoner seeking to proceed without prepayment of fees must therefore authorize the Court to withdraw these payments from his account by filing a “prisoner authorization,” which directs the facility where the prisoner is incarcerated to deduct the \$350.00

filing fee¹ from the prisoner's account in installments and to send to the Court certified copies of the prisoner's account statements for the prior six months. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2), (b).

Plaintiff submitted the Rule 41(g) motion without paying the filing fees or attaching a completed IFP application and prisoner authorization. As such, within 30 days of the date of this order, plaintiff must either pay the \$405.00 in fees or submit the attached IFP application and prisoner authorization forms. If plaintiff submits the IFP application and prisoner authorization, such should be labeled with the docket number reflected on this order, 24 Civ. 7951 (PAE).

If plaintiff complies with this order, the case shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of the Clerk's Office. If plaintiff fails to comply with this order within the time allowed, the action will be dismissed without prejudice.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore *in forma pauperis* status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf. Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962) (holding that appellant demonstrates good faith when seeking review of a nonfrivolous issue).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 22, 2024
New York, New York



PAUL A. ENGELMAYER
United States District Judge

¹ The \$55.00 administrative fee for filing a civil action does not apply to persons granted IFP status under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

(Full name(s) of the plaintiff or petitioner applying (each person must submit a separate application))

-against-

CV () ()

(Enter case number and initials of assigned judges, if available; if filing this with your complaint, you will not yet have a case number or assigned judges.)

(Full name(s) of the defendant(s)/respondent(s).)

APPLICATION TO PROCEED WITHOUT PREPAYING FEES OR COSTS

I am a plaintiff/petitioner in this case and declare that I am unable to pay the costs of these proceedings and I believe that I am entitled to the relief requested in this action. In support of this application to proceed *in forma pauperis* ("IFP") (without prepaying fees or costs), I declare that the responses below are true:

1. *Are you incarcerated?* ☐ Yes ☐ No (If "No," go to Question 2.)

I am being held at: _____

Do you receive any payment from this institution? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Monthly amount: _____

If I am a prisoner, *see* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(h), I have attached to this document a "Prisoner Authorization" directing the facility where I am incarcerated to deduct the filing fee from my account in installments and to send to the Court certified copies of my account statements for the past six months. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2), (b). I understand that this means that I will be required to pay the full filing fee.

2. *Are you presently employed?* ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "yes," my employer's name and address are: _____

Gross monthly pay or wages: _____

If "no," what was your last date of employment? _____

Gross monthly wages at the time: _____

3. In addition to your income stated above (which you should not repeat here), have you or anyone else living at the same residence as you received more than \$200 in the past 12 months from any of the following sources? Check all that apply.

(a) Business, profession, or other self-employment

☐ Yes

☐ No

(b) Rent payments, interest, or dividends

☐ Yes

☐ No

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (c) Pension, annuity, or life insurance payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (d) Disability or worker's compensation payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (e) Gifts or inheritances | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (f) Any other public benefits (unemployment, social security, food stamps, veteran's, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (g) Any other sources | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

If you answered "Yes" to any question above, describe below or on separate pages each source of money and state the amount that you received and what you expect to receive in the future.

If you answered "No" to all of the questions above, explain how you are paying your expenses:

4. How much money do you have in cash or in a checking, savings, or inmate account?

5. Do you own any automobile, real estate, stock, bond, security, trust, jewelry, art work, or other financial instrument or thing of value, including any item of value held in someone else's name? If so, describe the property and its approximate value:

6. Do you have any housing, transportation, utilities, or loan payments, or other regular monthly expenses? If so, describe and provide the amount of the monthly expense:

7. List all people who are dependent on you for support, your relationship with each person, and how much you contribute to their support (only provide initials for minors under 18):

8. Do you have any debts or financial obligations not described above? If so, describe the amounts owed and to whom they are payable:

Declaration: I declare under penalty of perjury that the above information is true. I understand that a false statement may result in a dismissal of my claims.

_____		_____	
Dated		Signature	
_____		_____	
Name (Last, First, MI)		Prison Identification # (if incarcerated)	
_____		_____	
Address	City	State	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____	_____
Telephone Number		E-mail Address (if available)	
_____		_____	

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

(full name of the plaintiff/petitioner)

-against-

CV () ()
(Provide docket number, if available; if filing this with your complaint, you will not yet have a docket number.)

(full name(s) of the defendant(s)/respondent(s))

PRISONER AUTHORIZATION

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- (1) because I filed this action as a prisoner,¹ I am required by statute (28 U.S.C. § 1915) to pay the full filing fees for this case, even if I am granted the right to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP), that is, without prepayment of fees;
- (2) if I am granted IFP status, the full \$350 filing fee will be deducted in installments from my prison account, even if my case is dismissed or I voluntarily withdraw it.

I authorize the agency holding me in custody to:

- (1) send a certified copy of my prison trust fund account statement for the past six months (from my current institution or any institution in which I was incarcerated during the past six months);
- (2) calculate the amounts specified by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b), deduct those amounts from my prison trust fund, and disburse those amounts to the Court.

This authorization applies to any agency into whose custody I may be transferred and to any other district court to which my case may be transferred.

Date

Signature

Name (Last, First, MI)

Prison Identification #

Address

City

State

Zip Code

¹ A "prisoner" is "any person incarcerated or detained in any facility who is accused of, convicted of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms or conditions of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(h).